Statement

Livestock Population—1951 -97—All India

{In Million Numbers)

Year	Total Livestock
1951	292.80
1956	306.60
1961	335.40
1966	344.10
1972	353.40
1977	369.00
1982	419.59
1987	445.28
1992	470.86
1997*	498.33

Source: Livestock Census Reports of various years.

**1997 data is provisional.*

Ban on use of Endosulfan on Plantation Crops

2082. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Endosulfan has been classified as 'highly hazardous' to health and banned in many countries;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Endosulfan is still being used in the country particularly in Karnataka and Kerala on cashew plantations and has been linked to hundreds of cases of birth defects, psychiatric illness, cancer etc.; and

(c) whether Government propose to ban the use of Endosulfan on plantation crops in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per "World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended classified by hazard", Endosulfan has been clasified as a "moderately hazardous" pesticide. It is reported to have been banned/severely restricted in 12 countries of the world because of the prevailing agro-climatic conditions and based on the specific requirements of those countries.

(b) and (c) Endosulfan is being used in the country, except in Kerala, where the High Court of Kerala has, vide its interim order dated 12/08/2002, imposed a ban on the use of Endosulfan within the State of Kerala, pending a final decision by the Central Government on the report of the Expert Committe appointed by the Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 to look into the report of National Institute of Occupational Health on its investigation of unusual illness allegedly reported by exposure to Endosulfan due to aerial spraying of Endosulfan over the cashew plantations in Padre Village of Kasargod District in N. Kerala with regard to higher prevalence of unusual diseases like mental retardation, congenital defect and abnormalities of re-productive system in children in the affected area.

The Expert Committee has submitted its report to the Registration Committee and the Government is examining the report to arrive at a definite conclusion.

Effectiveness of Jalkumbhi Compost

†2083. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that compost made of 'Jalkumbhi" a typical water plant is more effective that manure for enhancing agricultural yield;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.